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Sir JOHN BYRONS

# RELATION

## TO THE SECRETARY OF THE LAST WESTERNE ACTION.

BETWEEN

The Lord WILLMOTT and Sir *William Waller.*

On *Thirsday, July* 13. 1643.

With a List of both their Forces, and of their Losses.

Printed at *York* by *Stephen Bulkley*, 1643.

*By Speciall Command.*

## *Sir* John Byrons *Relation to the Secretary of the laſt Weſtern Action.*

*Sir*

UPon the occaſion of Lieutenant Colonell *Butlers* comming to *Oxford*, whom I ſhall deſire your Honour to preſent to His Majeſty, as one that carryed himſelfe very bravely in this Action, and tooke three Corners of the Rebells, which we ſent with the reſt of the Colours to *Oxford*, I ſhall make bold ſummarily to relate to you the carriage of this Buſineſſe, which deſerves to be acknowledged with as much thankefulneſſe to God as any thing that ever was done in this Kingdome. According to His Majeſties Command, we appeared before the *Devices* on *Thurſday* about three a Clocke in the Afternoone, with all our Horſe, which were not above 17. or 1800. at the moſt, being much leſſened in the long March, and many of them ſo tyred, that they were not able to come up; we ſhot off our Ordinance from an high Hill that overlookes the Town, to let them know, that we were there for their aſſiſtance; at the ſame time *Waller* appeared with his whole Army upon an oppoſite Hill within leſſe then two Miles of U; he made a very great ſhow, divers of the Country People being called thither to that purpoſe. But really

I beleeve his Horse were farre more then ours in number, and his Foot, beside the Country People 2500. all of them as compleatly armed as ever Troopes were. It was resolved that we should immediately march towards them, and my Lord *Willmott* very discreetly ordered it, That only his Brigade and mine should charge, (which both together made not above 1200. Horse,) and that the other Troopes (because they had lately taken an affright, and had been put to the worse by *Wallers* Men) should only stand as a Reserve, and not be imployed till it should please God to renue their Courage with our Successe: as we march towards the Rebells, they sent down some Troopes towards Us, which were gallantly encountered by Serjeant Major *Paul Smith* (who led our Forlorne Hope, consisting of 300. commanded Men) and forced them to turne their Backs. Sir *Arthur Hasterigge* seconded these with his Formidable Regiment of Bolfers, I meane his Curassiers whom the Lieutonant Generall intermyned with his Brigade, and forced them to retreat, not so, but that they rallied themselves again and charged the second time, but with worse successe; for then my Brigade being drawn up to second my Lord *Willmott*, they all ran away that could, and from that time Sir *Arthur Hasterigge* appeared no more in the Battle; upon this *Waller* drew his whole Army down the Hill, and advanced with his own Brigade of Horse, with two Peeces of Cannon before it, and two great Bodyes of Foot on the left Flank of it, these it fell to my share to charge with my Brigade, my Lord *Willmott* in the meane time rallying his men together to second me if occasion should be. As I marched towards them up the Hill, their Cannon played

upon

upon me at a very neere distance, but with very small losse, killing but two in Colonell *Sanayes* Regiment; The Musketeers all this while playd upon our Flanke, and hurt and killed some; and another Regyment of their Horse was watching an opportunity to charge us either in the Reare or in the Flanke, but were hindered by Lord *Craford*. By this time we were come very neer to *Wallers* Brigade, and the command I gave my men was, that not a Man should discharge a Pistoll till the Enemy had spent all his shot, which was punctually observed, so that first they gave us a Volly of their Carbins, then of their Pistolls, and then we fell in with them, and gave them ours in their teeth, yet they would not quit their ground but stood pushing for it a pretty space, till it pleased God, (I thinke) to put new Spirit into our tyr'd Horse as well as into our men, so that though it were up the Hill, and that a steepe one, we overbore them, and with that violence, that we forced them to fall fowle upon other Reserves of Horse that stood behind to second them, and so swept their whole Body of Horse out of the Field, and left their Foot naked, and pursued them neare three Miles over the Downes in *Bristoll* way till they came to a precipice, where their Feare made them so valiant that they gallop't downe as if it had been plain ground, and many of them brake both their own and their Horses necks. In my return from the chase, I tooke two peeces of their Cannon, and divers Waggons laden with Ammunition, and then rallied together our scattered Troopes, which were as much broken as the Enemy, by reason of their hot pursuit, in the meane time my Lord *Willmot* charg'd their Foot with the Horse he had with

him

him, but could not breake them, and in the charge *Dudley Smith* was slaine, and Lieutenant Colonell *Weston*, hurt and many others, but when they saw my Horse rallyed together again before them, and the Lieutenant Generall continuing still in the Reare of them, and that the *Cornish* Foot began to sally out of the Town, they thought it not fit to stay any longer, they began first gently to march off, their Officers marching before them, amongst which (as I have been told since) Sir *William Waller* himselfe was, and *Popham*. With that I advanc'd toward them with those Troopes I had rallyed, and shot at them with the Cannon I had formerly taken, their Officers thought it not fit to stay any longer, but such as had Horses rid away as fast as they could, and too fast for Us to overtake them, and the rest blew up their Powder, and threw down their Arms and betooke themselves to their heeles, Our Horse fell in amongst them, and kill'd 600. of them, and hurt many more, and tooke 800. Prisoners, and all their Colours, and this was the successe of their great Conquererer.

The Victory on our side as intire as possiblely can be imagined, their Horse and Foot being totally roured, and all their Cannon being 7 Brasse Peeces taken, and all their Ammunition. Sir, I beseech you excuse this scribling from one that is.

*July* 14. 1643.

*Sir*,

*Your Honours most humble Servant*

John Byron

*A List*

# A List of the *Kings* Forces, and Sir *William Wallers*.

## *Sir* William Wallers *strength*.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Regiments of Foot five,* | 2500 *Men.* |
| *Regiments of Horse six,* | 2500 |
| *One Regiment of Dragoons* | 0500 |
| *Cannon of Brasse,* | 0007 |

## The Kings Strength.

| | |
|---|---|
| *The Kings Horse* | 1500 |
| *Two small Pieces of Brasse Ordinance.* | |

*All their Army absolutely Defeated.*

| | |
|---|---|
| *Killed upon the Place* | 600 |
| *Prisoners* | 800 |
| *Colours of Foot taken* | 028 |
| *Colours of Horse taken* | 008 |
| *Brasse pieces taken* | 007 |

*All their Ammunition, Baggage, and most of their Arms.*

Redelivered of ours that were Prisoners with them 113. and Mistris *Parsons*

Of ours Killed very few, of note onely *Dudly Smith*; But many Officers and Gentlemen hurt.

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*FINIS.*